

2012-218E
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October 29, 2012

Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Commissioners:

SCE&G is requesting a healthy increase in their electrical rates for their customers in the areas of SC that they serve. They have a trend of asking for a much larger amount than they need to generate a reasonable profit.

I am against the rate increase for the following reasons.

Seniors are struggling in the current economy to pay rate increases for utilities that exceed any form of income they are receiving – Social Security – Interest Income. Social Security increase for 2013 has been announced to be 1.7% and most of that will be taken by the increase in Medicare Premiums. Interest rates paid by financial institutions is the lowest I can ever remember in my 73 years. A lot of the average seniors in SC are not even able to earn a small amount of interest because the economy is so bad that they are using any savings just to make ends meet.

SCE&G has included costs in their rate increase requests that should never be considered. Dinners for Board Members of SCANA should not be included in the cost request, and I understand they may pad their costs just to make it look like they need a large rate increase.

It is time for those in authority, such as your commission, to stand up to the managements of the utility companies that apparently do not manage their costs very well and task them with accountability.

I understand one of the costs they are including in their request covers increased interest costs. Perhaps they are not managing their fund sourcing on the market very well. Do they use best industry practices to obtain these funds?

Stand up and be counted for doing the right thing for the hard working South Carolinians that are already struggling to pay their electric bills. Tell SCE&G to go back to the drawing board and come back with a reasonable rate increase.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Weaver
Robert L. Weaver
1528 Ashley Garden Blvd
Charleston, SC 29414

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